

Nicholas Church. The pastor at that time was Father Basil Beretz. The people who were members of the parish had actually initiated plans for a church of the Byzantine Rite Catholics a number of years before that time. St. Nicholas' founders emigrated from a region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which is today the easternmost part of Czechoslovakia and arrived in Lorain, Ohio in the last part of the 19th century and the beginning of the twentieth century. They attended St. Michael Hungarian Byzantine Rite Catholic Church and for a brief time services were held in Kohlmyer's Hall in Lorain.

The church history characterizes the years from 1900 to 1914 as the formative years of St. Nicholas Parish: "In 1905 a committee of Byzantine Rite Catholics of Rusyn origin sought the advice and counsel of the late Bishop Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland. In 1907 the faithful of the future St. Nicholas Parish solicited funds for the purchase of lots on Toledo Avenue, Lorain, the former site of the church and rectory. The parish would then relocate in 1982 to 2711 W. 40th Street, the present site of the St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church complex. An historical mural retained in the old church for many years contained the list of the following contributors for the lots: Andrew Kakos, Andrew Ksenich, Andrew Karahuts, George Ksenich, Michael Lascisky, Michael Rusinko, George Demchik, John Danko, George Vajda, Vasil Pavelvach, Peter Yureck, John Kocak, Joseph Kokinda, Peter Kekel, John Taraka, Stephen Lascisky, Elek Ksenich, John Kvasnak, Nicholas Ksenich, Vasil Teleha, Peter Hazlak, Mike Rericky, Peter Hrinda, George Maczik, Mike Kizak, Jacob Andraska, John Jeresko. Stephen Ksenich, Joseph Suster, John Moroznak, George Tomcso, Frank Kablinka, John Szalag, Daniel Demjanovich, Mike Koscs, Mike Koczak, Joseph Szasz, Joseph Gluvna, John Naaymik and John Maylik. The purchase of the aforementioned lots was consummated through the Cleveland Chancery in the name of Bishop Schrembs and held by him in trust for the St. Nicholas Parish. In this manner St. Nicholas Parish was constituted as a Catholic parish under a Catholic bishop."

The church continued to grow and expand, both physically and in membership. A rectory was added in 1919 and a second story of the original church was dedicated on July 16, 1928, by Bishop Basil Takach, the first bishop of the Byzantine Rite Catholic Exarchate of Pittsburgh. Renovations continued and in 1946 the mortgage was paid off.

Under the stewardship of Father Andrew Pataki who later became the bishop of Parma, a parochial school was built. On Sunday, June 12, 1960, a festival was held and Bishop Nicholas T. Elko blessed a newly renovated St. Nicholas Church and the new St. Nicholas School. Sisters under the Order of St. Basil the Great came to Lorain to begin teaching at the school in 1962. A small house was purchased nearby and remodeled by parishioners as a convent.

On Dec. 14, 1964, St. Nicholas' celebrated its golden jubilee with bishop Nicholas T. Elko officiating at the pontifical Divine Liturgy assisted by the former pastors Fathers Andrew Pataki and George Simchak.

By the late 1970s it was apparent the church had outgrown its original buildings and, in "a beautiful testimonial to the generosity and the love that our parishioners have for

their church" according to the history, the substantial funds needed to build a new building were raised. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Sunday, Jan. 25, 1981. During the ceremony, the history notes, "the sound of axes could be heard ringing from the nearby woods. The St. Nicholas wood-chopping crew had a lot of land to clear and they did not have time to attend the ceremony. Additionally, a "heartly band of volunteers worked throughout the year of 1981 and painted the entire interior of the complex, laid all the floor tiles (estimated at over 10,000 tiles), sanded and stained all the woodwork and contributed thousands of cost-free hours of labor. As a result of their physical contribution, the interior of the convent was finished as well as many other items that were not in the original contract. By early spring, the new complex was nearing completion and an appeal was made for volunteers to purchase the pews, certain kitchen items and the appointments in the church. The response was overwhelming. The parishioners of St. Nicholas, the Greek Catholic Union Lodge, the Russo-Slav Club and other fraternal organizations associated with the church had come through once again.

The church history records that "the last service to be held at the old St. Nicholas Church was on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1982, and many a tear was shed as the last song was sung. Finally, on Holy Thursday evening, April 8, 1982, Father Felock blessed the new altar and church and the first service was held." The life of the parish continued in its new location through the 1980s, 1990s and into the new century. The school was closed in 2007 and the parish embarked on a mission of renewal as the new century dawned.

Today, the members of St. Nicholas Church's focus is on its future even as they honor its past. Standing on the shoulders of its founders and the families who established the parish as a cornerstone of its community, the parishioners of today's St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church are proud of its rich history. Yet, as they celebrate a century of parish life, the congregation of St. Nicholas' looks toward the next century with hope and faith. Onward!

OPPOSITION TO THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to express my opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, or BDCP. The BDCPs comment period closed at the end of July and California state officials reviewed comments from stakeholders throughout California as it determines the best route going forward. The result: the state has delayed implementation of the BDCP.

Since being elected to Congress in 2006, I've expressed concerns with this proposal. Building two tunnels that make it easier to ship Delta water south does nothing to address California's larger water issues. We need to focus our investments on recycling, desalinization, conservation, and storage—both above and below ground. Becoming better managers of our water resources will help prepare our state for wet and dry years.

As evident by the BDCPs delay, this flawed plan is based on unreasonable assumptions instead of sound science and has raised red flags from various federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That is why I offered an amendment to the FY15 Energy and Water Appropriations Act to ban the government from funding tunnels taking our water. We must focus our finite federal resources on initiatives that will result in increased water supply and storage capacity, not waste it on projects that take from one region of the state and send it to another.

The BDCP is not a plan that reflects the interests of all Californians; I along with my Delta colleagues remain willing to work with all parties on a statewide solution that considers all stakeholders interests.

HONORING ALAN AND SALLY MERTEN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Mason University President Emeritus Dr. Alan Merten and his wife, Sally. In June, I had the pleasure of attending a dedication naming the university's new senior administration building "Alan and Sally Merten Hall."

Dr. Merten served as George Mason University's president for 16 years, stepping down in 2012. This dedication is a fitting tribute to the Mertens, a pair who worked tirelessly for the better part of two decades promoting, growing and improving George Mason University. As a result of Alan and Sally's efforts, the university has become one of Virginia's greatest schools, as well as a nationally and internationally recognized center of academic and research excellence.

Current George Mason President Angel Cabrera honored the Mertens' service to the George Mason community at the June 23 ceremony. President Cabrera and former Board of Visitors rector, Edwin Meese III, lauded the Mertens' contributions to the school and to the community, and I was allowed to offer a few words as well. I always enjoyed working with Dr. Merten and was grateful for the opportunity to speak on my relationship with Alan and Sally, as well as my appreciation for their commitment to the school and leadership in the community.

As stated in the resolution used to enact the dedication, the Mertens' legacy includes four endowed scholarships and numerous gifts to university building and program funds. There is no doubt that George Mason is a better institution for the Mertens' efforts. I hope they will remain active in the George Mason community for many years to come.

I respectfully submit George Mason University's "Resolution to Rename University Hall" and the following news article from George Mason University on the ceremony.

RESOLUTION TO RENAME UNIVERSITY HALL IN HONOR OF ALAN AND SALLY MERTEN

Whereas, George Mason University President Emeritus Dr. Alan G. Merten led the university with distinction for 16 years, during which time he launched an ambitious